

## Inspirational spaces

# COMMUNITY GARDENS

Do you know of a community garden – small or large – that deserves recognition for its design?

The SGD launches a new initiative in its awards scheme this year – a category open to everyone for all kinds of garden, no matter how small the space or budget. This is the story of one garden that shows the power of community involvement...

## CASE STUDY: Alexandra Road Park, North West London, a journey towards creating a Park for People

About two years ago the residents of Alexandra and Ainsworth Estate decided to take their local park under their wing and applied to the Heritage Lottery Fund under the Parks for People grant programme. Having been successful at first round they are now waiting to see if they will get a full grant of £1.5 million. Two residents describe the journey so far...

**Lefkos Kyriacou:** "Alexandra Road Park is a rare example of late 20th-century landscape design. The park is four acres including footpaths (of which three acres are the only Designated Open Space on the estate). It forms the setting for the Grade II\* listed buildings of the Alexandra Road social housing estate designed by Neave Brown (1968-78) for Camden Council.

"The park is an east-west swathe of green space between two blocks of the estate and was designed by Janet Jack (1972-78) in conjunction with Neave Brown's new housing. The park cannot be uncoupled from the housing and together they are a

highly valued example of landscaping and architecture from the period of rebuilding (1960s/70s) of post-war London."

"Elements lost from the original design include much of the play equipment and a grass bowl (replaced by the circular lawn). Otherwise the original design is largely intact, with much of the planting contemporaneous with the construction of the estate. A habitat survey carried out in 2010 noted that the extent and diversity of planted vegetation is unusual for residential development.

"The value of the park's original design to the community goes beyond the fundamental concern for heritage. The community has given overwhelming support to retain and rejuvenate the original character of the landscape and is leading several initiatives to implement this vision."

**"ALEXANDRA ROAD PARK IS A RARE EXAMPLE OF LATE 20TH-CENTURY LANDSCAPE DESIGN"**



**ABOVE** A view of Janet Jack's Alexandra Road Park in 1992, and, left, a play area (no longer part of the landscape) from 1978

## NEW

SGD  
2013  
AWARDS

## DESIGNING FOR COMMUNITY SPACE

Are you involved with a community project? Members and non-members, designers and the general public, are invited to submit projects for the SGD 2013 Designing for Community Space Award.

### WHAT

Entries are encouraged from any outdoor space – temporary or permanent – of any size, which is owned by, for the use of, or designed with a community

### WHEN

8 July 2013  
Register your intent to enter to qualify for Early Bird entry rates.  
Deadline for entries  
12 August 2013

### HOW

Go to [www.sgd.org.uk](http://www.sgd.org.uk) and click on Awards Website for full details of how to make your entry

The SGD 2013 Awards are sponsored by Barcham Trees

The Designing for Community Space Award is sponsored by Easigrass